

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, June 3, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024, via both an in-person and virtual meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center, Room 150B, in Center City, MN with the following Directors present: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** None

*****Notice of Participation via Microsoft Teams*****

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Subd. 3, persons interested in monitoring the meeting electronically from a remote location viewed the meeting through the Microsoft Teams meeting link.

Others present attended the in-person or virtual meeting at a location of their choice through a personal device (e.g., laptop, tablet, cell phone, or personal computer). Each LID Board Director and others present were allowed to view documents presented during the in-person and virtual meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

Also present: LID Administrator Ben Elfelt, LID Water Resource Specialist Monica Kinny, Chisago County Water Resource Manager Susanna Wilson Witkowski, County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, and two citizens.

Chair Mike Mergens called the business meeting to order at 6:31 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director McBride made a motion to approve the amended agenda for the LID meeting. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None

Director McBride offered a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda for the LID meeting, including a) Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting on May 6, 2024, b) the Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director LeVasseur and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None

June 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
Collins Engineers	Weir Design	15,219.85
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	Water Levels	1,657.56
Frankie's	Carp Barrier	32.22
North Country Beaver Control	Beaver Trapping/Removal	75.00
Monthly Expense Total		17,259.63

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:34 p.m. One citizen offered comments. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:40 p.m.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elfelt shared with the Board the proposed changes to budget allocations as a result of the May 31st Planning and Budget Workgroup meeting.

Director Schumacher offered a motion to approve the 2025 Draft Budget Request as presented. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF**: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED**: None **ABSENT**: None

Director McBride offered a motion to approve the use of ARPA funds to move forward with Phase 2 and proceed with repairs to the Lofton Weir. Motion seconded by Director Behnke and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF**: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED**: None **ABSENT**: None

Director McBride offered a motion to request Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding from the county in the amount of \$232,000 for repair of the Lofton Weir. Motion seconded by Director Paquay on a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF**: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED**: None **ABSENT**: None

Elfelt updated the Board on the Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission meeting that he, Director Schumacher, and Kinny attended on May 20th. A tour and discussion of phragmites replacement options at the wastewater treatment plant will take place on June 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

Director LeVasseur made a motion to approve \$1000 to help fund the 2024 Chisago County Children's Water Festival. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride

Elfelt shared with the Board an Administrator Evaluation form included in the packet and encouraged them to fill out and return to him.

Elfelt discussed the possibility of setting up a Facebook Live Questions & Answer session to engage the public. Director McBride also recommended creating multiple short duration video clips to have available on the LID Facebook Page.

Elfelt relayed to the Board that Chisago County hired a firm to update its logo and branding, and that he would approach the firm to discuss new LID logo possibilities.

Elfelt presented the possibility of purchasing a dock from Center City to be installed at the Government Center for staff and public use. Funding options will be explored and presented at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Behnke made a motion to approve funding bus rental not to exceed \$500 to facilitate the LID Tour of Projects on September 16, 2024. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride

Elfelt reminded the Board of the dates for upcoming Karl Oskar Days and Ki-Chi-Saga Days and encouraged directors to sign up for LID/Lake Associations booth times.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt shared a video he had taken earlier in the day of carp congregation at the south end of South Center Lake near the culvert to Linn Lake.

Elfelt shared a regional events calendar provided by the East Metro Watershed Partners.

Kinny shared with the board a "Stop the Spread" Webinar that would be taking place on June 4th courtesy of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Water Resource Manager Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the following:

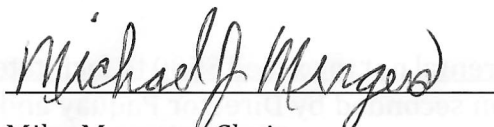
The Children's Water Festival is looking for volunteers for its 22nd annual festival on September 26th.

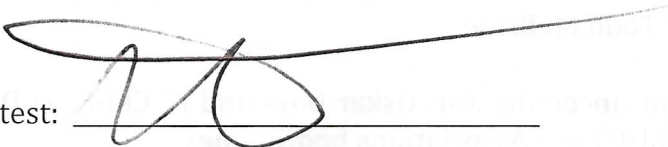
Watercraft inspectors are out at launches and there are 11 total this year, including 2 Level 2 inspectors.

The county septic systems webpage offers information on a Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater Grant that is now available.

The We Are Water MN Exhibit will kick off this month and a list of activities and volunteer opportunities can be found here: <https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/1349/We-Are-Water-MN-Exhibit> The first event will be a well water testing clinic on June 14th at Nessel Town Hall. Opening Ceremonies will take place on June 20th at the North Branch Library and June 21st at the Chisago County History Center in Lindstrom.

Director McBride offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: 

Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District